

is simply too soon to have a solid baseline planning number.

To be sure, the administration has been updating and revising its plans and estimates. Two weeks ago, it released an update to its section 1251 report with a revised, substantially higher cost estimate for both replacement facilities.

It also included yet more funding for the NNSA's overall budget. The administration has proposed an additional \$600 million in funding for fiscal year 2012 and an additional \$4.1 billion over the next 5 years. That brings the total for the next decade to \$85 billion. This both serves as a reminder that it is too early to have a fixed budget for the new facilities, and also strongly reinforces the administration's good-faith effort and commitment.

This brings me back to my fundamental point. I believe that support for the two new facilities can be sustained if we follow the path laid out by the Perry-Schlesinger Commission and pursued by the administration. This means balancing deterrence, arms control, and non-proliferation. The reality is that there will be significant questions and doubts about proceeding with such a costly modernization effort if it is not accompanied by equal support for arms control and non-proliferation.

There is no doubt that the existing facilities are aging and run down. There are even safety problems. Something must be done.

But if we are going to move forward effectively, modernization must be paired with arms control. And that starts with a modest first step—ratification of the New START.

Without that step, consensus will break down, the replacement facilities will once again lose a coherent mission, and we will be stuck with drift and controversy. The Perry-Schlesinger Commission recognizes that if it is not possible to sustain the budget requisite for both facilities concurrently, choices will have to be made.

They give powerful reasons for moving forward with the chemistry and metallurgy research facility before the uranium processing facility. That is the kind of tough choice we will have to make if New START is not ratified. Similarly, real uncertainty will creep into the consideration of just what sort of project the chemistry and metallurgy research facility should be.

Let me conclude by noting that the administration and the Democratic Congress have met every demand that many of my friends across the aisle have made on modernization. To my friends on the other side, I say, look at the demands in the December 2009 letter that you all signed. The administration has met each of those demands.

Look at what Senator KYL said in an op-ed in July: "A key test is whether the Democratic-controlled Congress will approve the president's nuclear modernization requests for the coming fiscal year." We passed that test, and as I mentioned earlier under an otherwise flat-lined continuing resolution.

In that same piece, and in his March letter with Senator MCCONNELL to the

President, Senator KYL indicated he wanted assurances that the fiscal year 2012 budget would include adequate funding as well. Although next year's budget is not due out until February, as I mentioned before, the administration has already announced what it will be requesting, and it will be another enormous increase in the weapons activities budget. Can there really be any doubt that the administration will move aggressively forward with modernization—if Republicans take the first modest step of ratifying New START now?

We have passed our key test. The administration has met the demands Senator KYL had laid out. Now the key test for Senator KYL and others is whether they will join us in ratifying the New START. If they don't do that now, the consensus that we have built will fall apart. Our national security will be put at risk. And we will return to the dark days when the nuclear enterprise was the subject of neglect and controversy.

The New START is a modest but very important step. It is one we should all take together, without controversy.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

RECESS

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in recess for the weekly caucus meetings, as provided under the previous order.

There being no objection, at 12:21 p.m., the Senate recessed until 4 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BENNET).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, first of all, let me express my gratitude to all of the colleagues and other individuals who have come to the Chamber at this moment.

Everyone who serves in Congress usually recalls two moments in their service: the maiden speech they give shortly after their arrival and their closing remarks. I can't recall what the first speech I gave as a new member of the House of Representatives 36 years ago was even about. I do, however, recall very vividly that there was no one else in the Chamber when I gave it. It was an empty hall early one evening with the exception of one colleague, Johnny Dent from Pennsylvania. He was sitting in his chair with his trademark dark glasses, listening patiently as I gave my knee-rattling, hand-shaking maiden address. Midway through the speech, he walked up to me and said quietly: You know, kid, it is not on the level. Well, that was my first speech before the House, and I am deeply honored that so many of you have come out to listen to my closing remarks today so I do not have to speak to an empty Chamber.

For more than 200 years, a uniquely American story has unfolded here in

the Chamber of the United States Senate—a fascinating, inspiring, often tumultuous tale of conflict and compromise, reflecting the awesome potential of our still-young democracy and its occasional moments of agonizing frustration.

For much of my life, this story has intersected with my own in ways that have been both thrilling and humbling. As a 14-year-old boy, I sat in the family gallery of this very Chamber watching as my father took the oath of office as a new Senator. A few years later, in 1962, I sat where these young men and women sit today, serving as a Senate page. John F. Kennedy was President and Lyndon Johnson presided over this body. Eighteen years later, in the fall of 1980, the people of Connecticut gave me the honor of a lifetime when they asked me to give voice to their views, electing me to serve as their U.S. Senator. For the past 30 years, I have worked hard to sustain that trust. I am proud of the work I have done, but it is time for my story and that of this institution, which I cherish so much, to diverge. Thus, Mr. President, I rise to give some valedictory remarks as my service as a U.S. Senator from Connecticut comes to a close.

Now, it is common for retiring Senators to say the following: I will miss the people but not the work. Mr. President, you won't hear that from me. Most assuredly, I will miss the people of the Senate, but I will miss the work as well. Over the years, I have both witnessed and participated in some great debates in this Chamber, moments when statesmen of both parties gathered together in this Hall to weigh the great questions of our time. And while I wish there had been more of those moments, I will always remember the Senate debates on issues such as Central America, the Iraq war, campaign finance reform, securities litigation, health care, and, of course, financial reform.

And when I am home in Connecticut, I see the results of the work we did every day. I see workers coming home from their shifts at Pratt & Whitney, Electric Boat, the Sikorsky helicopter plant—the lifeblood of a defense manufacturing sector so critical to our national security and to the economic well-being of my home State. I see communities preparing for high-speed rail and breaking ground for new community health centers. I see the grants we fought for helping cities and towns to build sustainable communities and promote economic development.

When I am home, I meet parents who, because of the Family and Medical Leave Act, don't have to choose between keeping their jobs and taking care of their sick children. I visit with elderly folks who no longer have to choose between paying for their prescription drugs and paying for their heat. I hear from consumers who have been victimized by unfair practices on